

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: JOHANNES NOISTERNIG ET AL. - 1 (PCT)  
PCT NO.: PCT/EP2003/006303  
FILED: JUNE 14, 2003  
TITLE: INHERENTLY RIGID INSTRUMENT CARRIER ASSEMBLY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**MAIL STOP PCT**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the initial Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.